

Nekkogataro

STRAY CAT
SAMURAI



3

HIROYUKI TAKEI
CREATOR OF SHAMAN KING



GOOD!
YOU'RE
BOTH
AWAKE!

Nekogahara

CHAPTER 12:
THREE
GROWN
KITTENS!

HIROYUKI
TAKEI

ネコガハラ

takei

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PLEASE,
OSAMURAI-
SAMA!
I DON'T
MIND ONE
BIT!

...I
APOLOGIZE.
IT SEEMS
I AM ONCE
AGAIN IN
YOUR DEBT,
OMIKE-
DONO.

AHEM.

WHA?



I'LL
EXPLAIN
EVERY-
THING, SO
FOR NOW,
JUST WAIT
HERE AND
HAVE SOME
TEA.

I'M JUST
HAPPY TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN,
DON'CHA
KNOW.



YOU
HAVE
MY
THANKS.

...ALL
RIGHT.

THE
DIRTY
MOG!

THE...

ALL
BECAUSE
THERE'S
A YOUNG
MOLLY
AROUND
!!!

GIANT

SHOCK

HE'S
ACTING
ALL
GENTLE-
MAN-
LIKE!

SIGN: OUTHOUSE

廁

SCAT!

HE
BANGED
ME UP
PRETTY
GOOD...

OWW...
AND HE
DIDN'T
HOLD
BACK.

I GUESS
I SHOULD
JUST BE
GLAD
I'M STILL
ALIVE.

...OH
WELL.

FLUTTER

FUCK!

!

THAT
OLD MOG
JUST
CAN'T
GET ANY
WORSE!

ACTING
LIKE HE
DOESN'T
GO
AROUND
HUMPING
PIECES OF
WOOD.

SPLASH

NO
WONDER
HE'S ALWAYS
CONTRA-
DICTING
HIMSELF!

HNGH!



...IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
ANYWAY.



HA HA...
IF MY OLD
MAN FINDS
OUT, HE'S
GONNA BITE
MY HEAD
OFF.

AAAHH...

PRETTY
BIG HOLES
THERE.
THAT'LL
NEVER BE
THE SAME
AGAIN.

BUT...
OH WELL.
IT'S KINDA
COOL, LIKE
A STRAY
CAT.

...NEVER
GOING
BACK
HOME
AGAIN.

I'M...

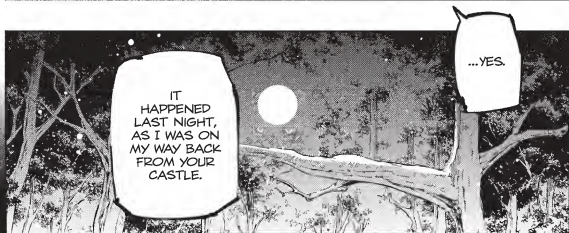
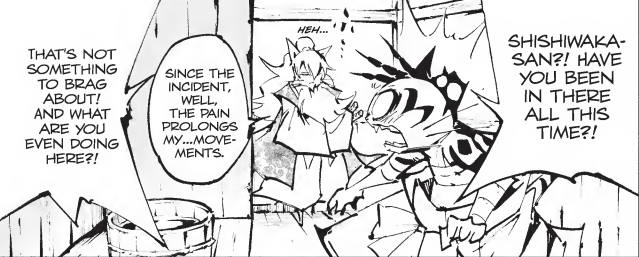




...NO.

YOU
MUST
GO BACK,
SHORT.
AND AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

WHAT
I MEAN TO
SAY IS...YOU'LL
DO AS YOUR
FATHER SAYS,
IF YOU KNOW
WHAT'S GOOD
FOR YOU.



THEN THE
PRIEST
SPOKE.

WHILE I WALKED
THE DARK, NIGHT
PATH, WHO
SHOULD ABRUPTLY
APPEAR BUT A
PRIEST, CARRYING
YOU BOTH AS IF
YOU WEIGHED
NOTHING, AND
A FEMALE WITH
BLACK FUR.





ALL THAT
REMAINED
WERE A
TEAHOUSE-
JUST
VISIBLE
PAST THE
CLEARING
FOG-AND
THE TWO
OF YOU.

BY THE
TIME I
RAISED
MY HEAD,
THEY HAD
BOTH
VANISHED
FROM
SIGHT.



IF I COULD
HAVE IT MY
WAY, I WOULD
WAKE UP TO
FIND THAT
YESTERDAY
HAD ALL BEEN
A DREAM.

...IT WAS AS
IF I WERE IN
A DREAM.



THOSE
TWO
CATS....



HUH?
YOU WENT
TO MY
HOUSE?!
SO WHAT
HAPPENED
THERE?!



THERE'S NO
DOUBT IN
MY MIND-
THEY WERE
SHINOBI.



THEY DELIVERED
THEIR MESSAGE BY
WORD OF MOUTH
RATHER THAN BY
LETTER. IT'S AN OLD
TRICK TO ENSURE
NO RECORD IS LEFT
BEHIND.

THAT'S
REASON
ENOUGH FOR
SHORT'S
FATHER,
AMEMURA
RICAN, TO
GO OUT OF
HIS WAY TO
ASSEMBLE
A TEAM OF
DANGEROUS
CATS FROM
THE POUND.

I DON'T
KNOW WHICH
SIDE WOULD
SEND ITS
SHINOBI
TO ASSIST
NORAGHINO,
BUT I AM
QUITE
CERTAIN
THAT
POLITICAL
POWERS ARE
AT WORK
HERE.

ON THE OTHER
PAK, I'VE
HEARD THAT
THE SHAKAGAWA
SHOGUNATE,
EVEN NOW THAT
THEY'VE TAKEN
CONTROL OF
THE NATION,
USES SHINOBI
TO ENFORCE
ITS RULE BY
ERADICATING
HOSTILE
INFLUENCES.

NORAGHINO'S
BELL BELONGS
TO ISHIDA
TSUNARI. I'VE
HEARD HE WAS
A COMPETENT
MAN WHO
EMPLOYED
SHINOBI.







HUH? HEY,
WAIT! WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT,
SHISHIWAKA-
SAN?!

...I'VE
DELIVERED
THE MESSAGE.
NOW I AM GOING
TO GO INTO
HIDING AND
GIVE MYSELF
TO TRAINING
AWHILE AS I
CONVALESCENCE.

YOU HAD
BEST
BEHAVE
YOURSELF
AS WELL,
SHORT.



**AMAGAMI
SHIRO...
TO THINK
THAT TOM
IS ALIVE...**



DO YOU
BELIEVE
THAT
GUY?



...AND
REFUSES
TO ACCEPT
ANY OF
THE RISKS.
WHO DOES
THAT?

HE
WALTZES
INTO OUR
PROVINCE,
TRYING TO
MAKE A
NAME FOR
HIMSELF...



I'M
KURO-
GANE
HYŌE,
FROM
THE
POUND.

TMP



BESIDES,
I'VE HAD
THIS ITCH
THAT JUST
WON'T
GO AWAY
SINCE
YESTER-
DAY.

...AND
NOW
YOU'VE
GOT ME
CURIOUS
ABOUT
"WHO HE
REALLY
IS."



COME ON,
PRETTY BOY.
I WANNA
SEE IF YOU
CAN BEAT
ME.



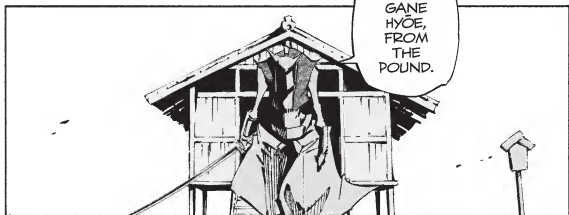
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I'M
KURO-
GANE
HYŌE,
FROM
THE
POUND.



BESIDES,
I'VE HAD
THIS ITCH
THAT JUST
WON'T GO
AWAY SINCE
YESTERDAY.

...AND
YOU'VE
GOT ME
CURIOUS
ABOUT
"WHO HE
REALLY
IS."

WHOOOSH



COME ON,
PRETTY BOY.
I WANNA SEE
IF YOU CAN
BEAT ME.

NekoGothoro

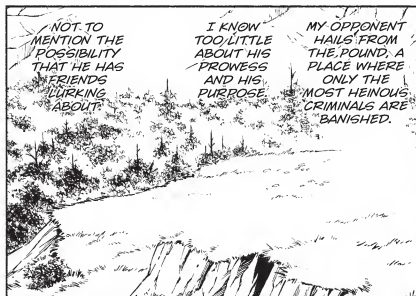
CHAPTER 13:
NORWEGIAN WOOD,
ACT ONE



HIROYUKI
TAKEI

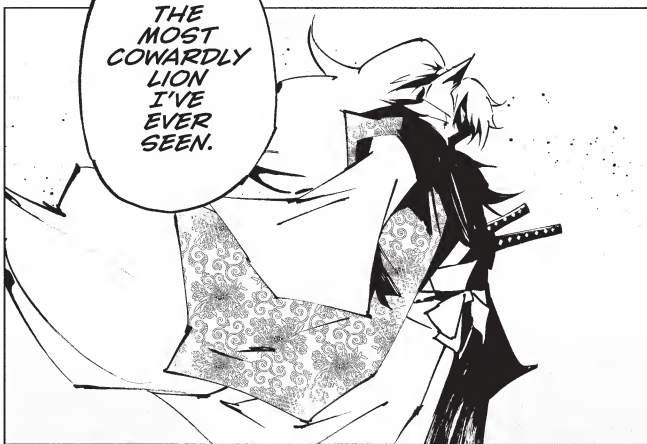








YOU'RE
SPINE-
LESS.



THE
MOST
COWARDLY
LION
I'VE
EVER
SEEN.



SPINE-
LESS
COWARD!

SLAP





DON'T
YOU
UNDER-
STAND,
SHISHI-
WAKA?



TO
SPREAD
THE WORD
OF GOD,
AS I'VE
TOLD YOU
TIME AND
AGAIN.

WE CAME
TO THIS
LAND
FOR ONE
REASON,
AND ONE
REASON
ALONE.



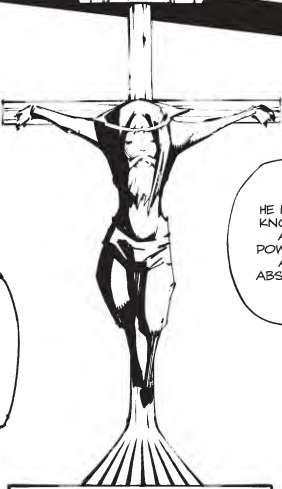
THE WORD
OF GOD
TEACHES
US...TO
LOVE ALL
CREATURES
EQUALLY,
DOESN'T
IT?!

BUT
FATHER!

IF THAT'S
SO, THEN
WHY SHOULD
WE HAVE TO
DESTROY
OTHERS?!



WHY?
BECAUSE
OUR
ENEMY
IS THE
DEVIL.



WE HAVE
BUT ONE
GOD.

HE IS ALL-
KNOWING,
ALL-
POWERFUL,
AND
ABSOLUTE.

IN OTHER
WORDS,
ALL WHO
TURN
THEIR
BACKS
ON HIM
ARE EVIL.

...WE MUST
BURN THE
HEATHEN
TEMPLES TO
THE GROUND
AND BUILD
HEAVEN ON
THIS VERY
ISLAND.

ERGO...





BUT
FATHER...!



LOOK
AT HIM,
SHISHI-
WAKA.



HE HAS
TAKEN
ALL THE
BELIEVERS'
PRAYERS
UPON
HIMSELF.

BECAUSE
OF HIS UN-
WAVERING
FAITH, HE
ATTRACTS
THE BELIEF
OF
OTHERS.

BECAUSE
OF HIS
UNWAVER-
ING FAITH,
HE IS
STRONG.





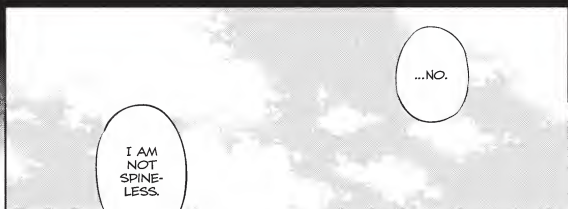
WHICH IS
WHY I HAVE
DECIDED TO
PLACE SHIRŌ
AT THE
HEART OF
THE COMING
BATTLE.



"SPINE-
LESS
COWARD."



YOU COULD
STAND TO
LEARN
FROM HIS
EXAMPLE.





...WHY
WOULD
HE ALLOW
SUCH
BRUTALITY?!



IF GOD
TRULY
DOES
EXIST...



...IS TO
STOP
THINKING
FOR
YOURSELF
!!!

TO BE
SPINE-
LESS...





I DESPISE
CATS WHO
LET THEM-
SELVES BE
DECEIVED!!!



THEY
HAVE NO
STANDARDS
FOR
GOOD OR
EVIL!!!

THEY
REFUSE TO
THINK FOR
THEMSELVES,
AND MERELY
PUT ALL
THEIR FAITH
INTO THOSE
WITH
POWER!!!

THAT
IS WHAT
I CONSIDER
TO BE
SPINELESS!!!

NekoGothRo

CHAPTER 14:
NORWEGIAN WOOD,
ACT TWO



HIROYUKI
TAKEI

lapin



I DON'T
GIVE A
FLEA'S
ASS!!!



...IS TO
SNAP
SOME
CAT IN
TWO!!!



IS
THIS
THE
POWER
OF
PURE,
CONCENTRATED
EVIL?

HIS
ACTIONS
CONTAIN
NOT A
MOMENT
OF
HESITATION.



THIS IS
KUROGANE
HYOE, A
COMBAT
FROM THE
POND.





WHAT
ARE YOU
LOOKING
AT?!



NNRR-
RAAAHH!!!

IF I AM TO
DEFEAT HIM,
I'LL HAVE TO
REMOVE THE
ADVANTAGE
OF THOSE
LONG LIMBS.



KA-CHANG

FOR SOME
REASON, CATS
KEEP AIMING
FOR MY LEGS
THERE,
SO I GOTTA
COVER 'EM
UP.

OH,
THAT?

ARMOR!!!

WHAM

GRNK

WHOOOSH

CLAMP

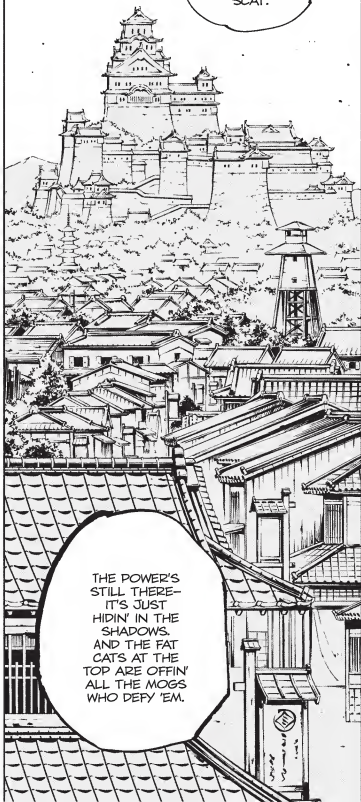
カッパッパッ

AWWW.
YOU'RE
NOTHIN'
BUT A
LITTLE
PUSSY-
CAT.

...TCH.



THEY TALK
ABOUT THE
WORLD BEIN'
AT PEACE
WITH THE
WAR OVER,
BUT THAT'S
A LOAD OF
SCAT.



THE POWER'S
STILL THERE-
IT'S JUST
HIDIN' IN THE
SHADOWS.
AND THE FAT
CATS AT THE
TOP ARE OFFIN'
ALL THE MOGS
WHO DEFY 'EM.

NGA-
AAA-
AAH-
HHH!!!



...WELL, IT
MUST BE
TOUGH,
BEIN' SUCH
A WEAK-
LING.

SINCE
IT'S VIOLENCE
WHAT MAKES
THE WORLD
GO ROUND
AN' ALL.

THAT'S WHY
AMEMURA
RICAN TOOK
IN ALL US
CATS FROM
THE POUND—
AS A
PROTECTION
RACKET.

"THERE
ARE SOME
BAD GUYS
THAT YOU
CHOOSE
TO KEEP
AROUND."





CARACALU
THE
VILLAGE
BURNER.

JAGUATARA
THE CAT-
NAPPER.



KUMOTARŌ
THE
STOVER'S
STEAM-
CLOUD.

OZEMARU
THE NIGHT
SHREDDER.

KAPPEI
THE HEAD-
HUNTER.

EVERY
SINGLE
ONE OF US
IS AN EVIL,
FUR-RAISING
MONSTER.

AND
LAST BUT
NOT LEAST,
AMAGAMI SHIRO
THE GREAT
WAR CRIMINAL.
HE DOES WHAT
HE WANTS
AND NOBODY
STOPS HIM.



MY
DAD...

...BROUGHT
CATS BACK
FROM THE
POUND?



THAT'S
ABOUT THE
SIZE OF IT,
LITTLE
ARISTOCAT.

YEAH,
WELL...

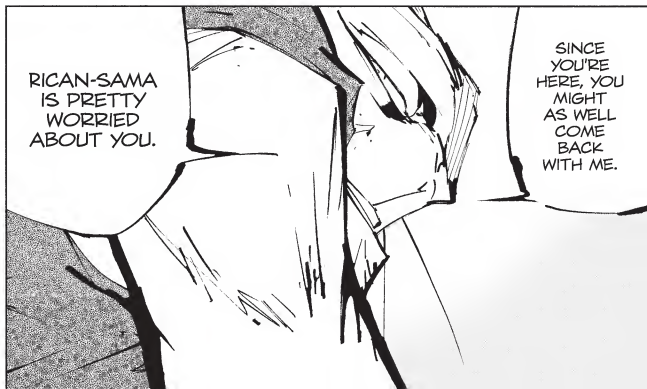
GRND

GRND



RICAN-SAMA
IS PRETTY
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.

SINCE
YOU'RE
HERE, YOU
MIGHT
AS WELL
COME
BACK
WITH ME.





NNNGH!!!
MMMMPH!!!

MM! MM
MUMMEM
MM MM
MUMEEM
MM!



?!



...!

MM!
HRNGH!!!



POW



...?

SHISHI-
WAKA-
SAN?

THAT
WOULD
PUT YOU
IN A
PRECARIOUS
POSITION,
WOULDN'T
IT?

ONE
MOVE,
AND HE
DIES.

NNGH...
BUT...

COME
ALONG,
KITTEN.
...COME
WITH ME.

WHAT
DO YOU
KNOW,
WEAK-
LING?

PIECE
OF
SCAT.

...YOU'RE
A FOOL,
HYOE.

YOU
SHOULD
HAVE
KILLED ME
WHEN YOU
HAD THE
CHANCE.

CLAMP





ONE
MOVE,
AND HE
DIES.

THAT WOULD
PUT YOU IN
A PRECARIOUS
POSITION,
WOULDN'T IT,
KUROGANE
HYŌE?



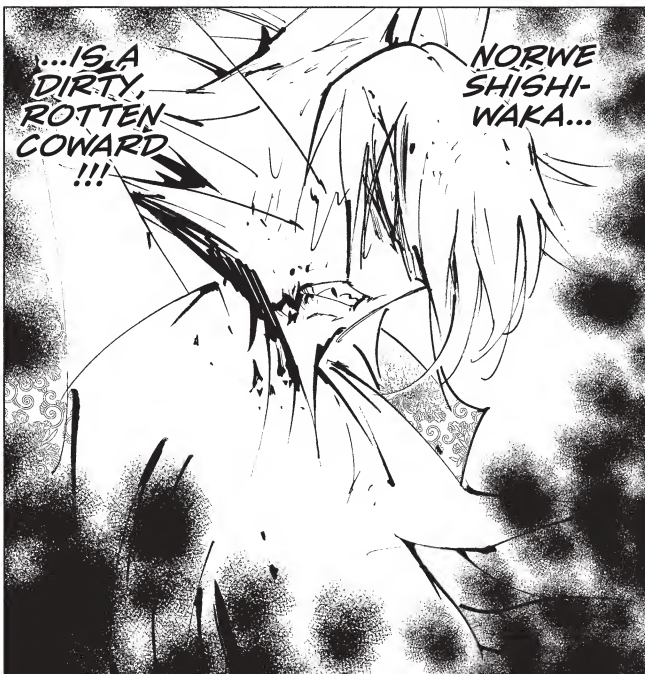
I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHAT'S
GOING ON,
BUT I WAS
RIGHT.



WHY DO
I GOTTA BE
A HOSTAGE
IN ALL OF
THIS?



...?



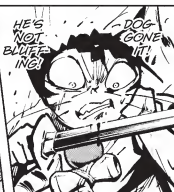
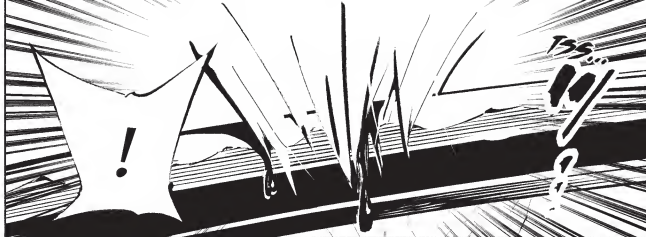
...IS A
DIRTY,
ROTTEN
COWARD
!!!

NORWE
SHISHI-
WAKA...

Nekogallaro

CHAPTER 15:
NORWEGIAN WOOD,
ACT THREE







SON OF
A BITCH.

YOU
TRYING TO
STEAL MY
GLORY,
SHISHI-
WAKA-
SAN?



AH
HA...

!





AMEMURA
RICAN
SHORT-
NO-
KAMI.



BUT
NOW I CAN
JUST KILL
YOU BOTH
AT ONCE
AND TAKE
ALL THE
GLORY FOR
MYSELF.

TRUTH IS, I WAS
GONNA FIND
SOMEWHERE
ON THE WAY
HOME WHERE
NO ONE WAS
LOOKING AND
PUT THE LITTLE
TOM OUT OF
HIS MISERY.

THE
HELL
YOU
SAY,
FUR-
BALL?!!



EVERY
DOGGONE
ONE OF YA,
PULLING ALL
THESE DIRTY
ROTTEN
TRICKS!

FOR
CRYING
OUT
LOUD!!!

THE
WHOLE
WORLD
PISSES
ME
OFF!

WHAM!

A character is shown in a dynamic, low-angle pose, looking upwards. They are wearing a light-colored, possibly white, jacket or shirt with a high collar. The background is filled with dark, jagged shapes and vertical lines, suggesting a dramatic or intense scene. A speech bubble is positioned near the character's head.

I MEAN,
YEAH, I WAS
PLAYING
DIRTY TO
GET AHEAD,
TOO!

BUT
I FINALLY
FIGURED
OUT THAT
MAKES ME
NO BETTER
THAN MY
DOGGONE
DAD!

A character is shown in a dynamic, low-angle pose, looking upwards. They are wearing a light-colored, possibly white, jacket or shirt with a high collar. The background is filled with dark, jagged shapes and vertical lines, suggesting a dramatic or intense scene. A speech bubble is positioned near the character's head.

...!!!



SO YOU
WANNA
KILL ME?
FINE!



THEN
I'LL KILL
ALL OF YA
TOGETHER!



AND MY
DAD, TOO!
WITH MY
TRUSTY
WEAPON!!!



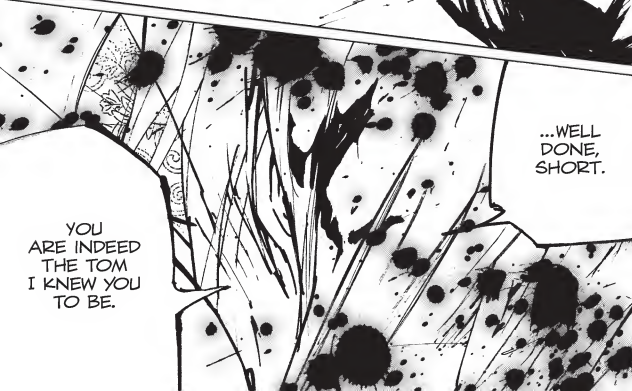
AND I
SWEAR,
I WILL
NEVER
BE LIKE
MY OLD
MAN!

TIME
TO
DIE.

HA
HA!

DON'T THINK
THAT LITTLE
TOY MAKES
YOU SO
TOUGH, YOU
SNOT-NOSED
CATLING!

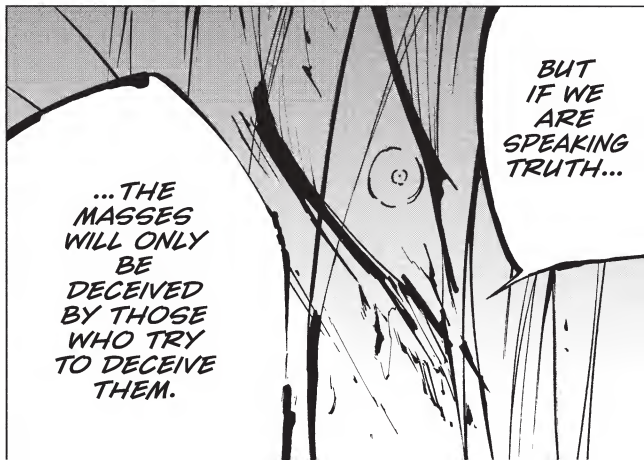




YOU
ARE INDEED
THE TOM
I KNEW YOU
TO BE.

...WELL
DONE,
SHORT.





AND
SO...

ZZ
ZZ...

...CALL
ME A DIRTY
COWARD AS
OFTEN AS
YOU LIKE, BUT
I NEED
ABSOLUTE
AUTHORITY.

THUD

...TO
STOP HIM
AND LEAD
CATS
ARIGHT.

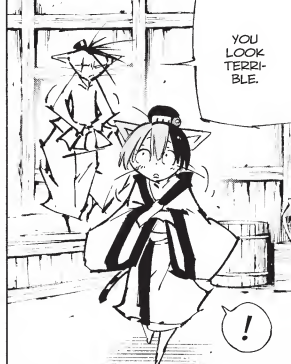
I NEED
AUTHORITY...

I MUST
DEFEAT
AMAGAMI
SHIRO.











CHAPTER 16:
HIS NICK NAME.

NekoGoro

HIROYUKI
TAKEI





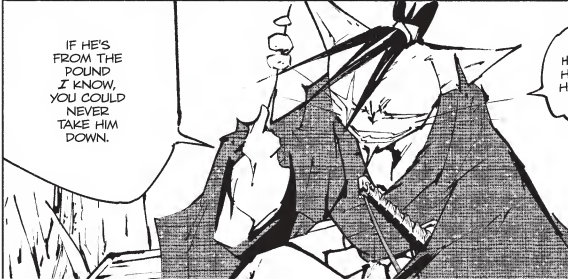
DOESN'T
RING A BELL.
ARE YOU
SURE HE
WAS AT THE
POUND?



KURO-
GANE
HYŌE?



...WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



IF HE'S
FROM THE
POUND,
I KNOW,
YOU COULD
NEVER
TAKE HIM
DOWN.

HA
HA
HA.



I AM
STILL
WEAK...
IN EVERY
RESPECT.

...I
CANNOT
DENY IT.



WHAT
WAS
THAT,
KNAVE?!

ACK!

NOW,
NOW,
DON'T
GET YOUR
TAIL IN A
TWIST.
YOUR ASS
STILL HURTS,
DOESN'T
IT? ALL I'M
SAYING IS
YOU'RE NOT
AT YOUR
BEST.



BUT
APPARENTLY,
THEY "KNOW
WHO HE
REALLY IS."

LAST NIGHT, A
PORTLY MONK
ESCORTING A
BLACK-FURRED
FEMALE ASKED
ME TO TELL
YOU SOME-
THING.

...I
HAVEN'T
THE
FOGGIEST
IDEA WHAT
IT'S ALL
ABOUT.



HA!

CRUNCH



THE
SLY OLD
FOX. HE
WAS A
SHINOBI
ALL
ALONG.

I SEE.
SO THE
MONK'S
"LITTLE
FOLD."

WHAT THAT'S SUPPOSED TO MEAN? WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THE MESSAGE?

AH?

AH?

BUT
NOW MY
BUSINESS
WITH YOU
IS TRULY
FINISHED.

WHO CAN SAY?

GOOD QUESTION.

SO? WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW.

H-HHEY! WHO'S THIS "HE"?!

H-HEY!
WHO'S
THIS
"HE"?!

SO?
WHAT'S
THE
ANSWER?

I TOLD
YOU, I
DON'T
KNOW.

AND SHORT...

I AM
LEAVING ON
A JOURNEY,
TO TRAIN
TO BE A
WARRIOR.

RICAN HAS
AT LEAST SIX
MORE POUND
CATS IN HIS
COMMAND, ALL
IN THE SAME
CLASS AS
HYŌE.

I HATE
TO BE
REPETITIVE,
BUT WHAT-
EVER YOU
DO, DO NOT
DEFY YOUR
FATHER.



YOU HAVE
ENEMIES
WORKING
FOR
AMEMURA
RICAN,
RIGHT?

SHISHI-
WAKA,
WAIT.



!



I'VE
FINALLY
PUT IT ALL
TOGETHER.

...LET'S
ALL GO
TO THE
CASTLE.
RIGHT
NOW.

IN
THAT
CASE
...

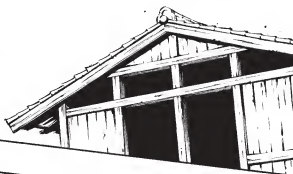


WE CAN PUT
IT OFF AS
LONG AS WE
WANT, BUT
WE'RE ALL
GONNA DIE
EVENTUALLY.

RIGHT?

IF YOU REALLY
WANT TO GET
STRONGER,
YOU CHOOSE
AN OPPONENT
YOU'RE SERIOUS
ABOUT KILLING.

クッッッッ
WHOOOOSH



THAT
SON
OF A...
HE
MISSED
MY
VITALS...

...DOG-
GONE
IT.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF





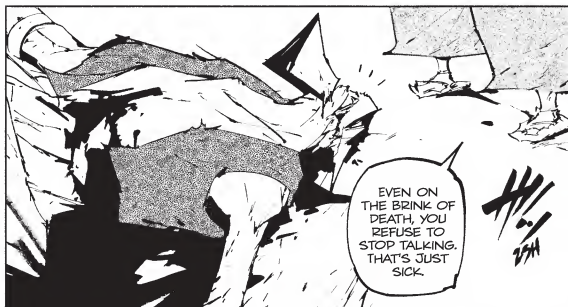
...I
CAN'T
WAIT.

...WELL,
WHAT-
EVER.

...DID HE
WANT TO
KILL ME
SLOWLY
AND PAIN-
FULLY?

OR IS
HE JUST
A 'STINKIN'
AMATEUR?

EITHER
WAY, I'LL
MAKE
HIM
REGRET
LETTING
ME LIVE.



EVEN ON
THE BRINK OF
DEATH, YOU
REFUSE TO
STOP TALKING.
THAT'S JUST
SICK.

HA!
HA!



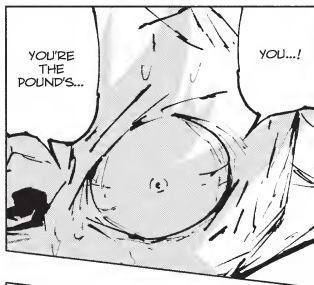
IT HAS
BEEN A
LONG
TIME,
HASN'T
IT?

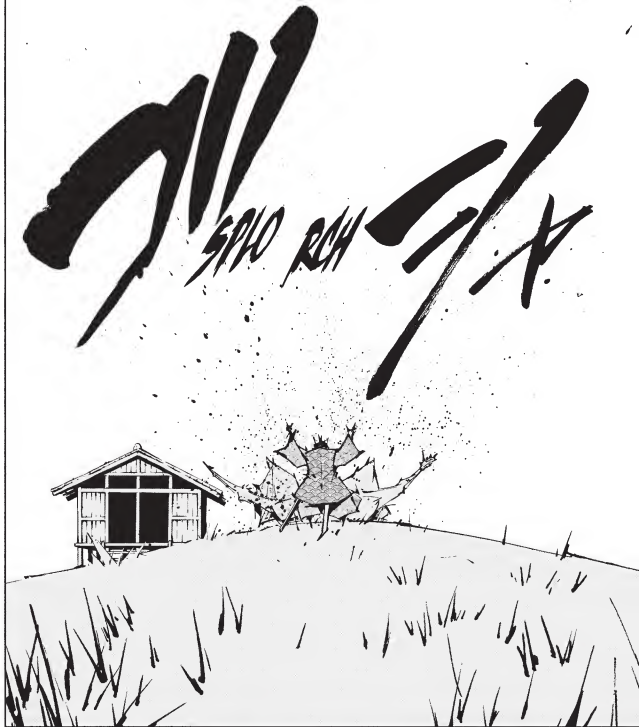
YO, HYŎE.
YOU'RE AS
GIGANTIC
AS EVER.



THE ONE
I SMASHED
FOR YOU.

HOW'S
YOUR
CHIN?





...KNOW-
ING WHO
I REALLY
AM.

ALL
THESE
CATS
RUNNING
AROUND
FREE...

THIS HAS
GOT TO
STOP.





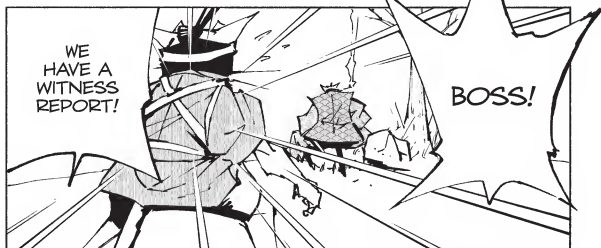
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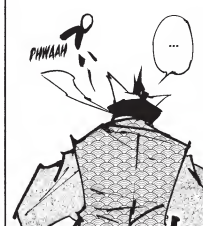
コ

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FWWAH

...



AND THE FARMERS
GOT A
GOOD
LOOK AT
THEIR
FACES!

THEY
SAID
HE WAS
FIGHTING
TO THE
DEATH
AGAINST
TWO
CATS!



CLACK

...REALLY.



DRAW
UP THE
WANTED
POSTERS,
AND
MAKE IT
SNAPPY.

GOOD.
THOSE
MUST
BE OUR
TOMS.

GLINT

Nekogallaro

CHAPTER 17:
DEBUT



POSTER: [RIGHT] SHORT
POSTER: [MIDDLE] NORACHIYO
POSTER: [LEFT] SHISHIWAKA







...ENOUGH
OF YOUR
JOKES.

NINE LIVES
AREN'T
ENOUGH
TO SURVIVE
YOUR
COMPANY.



UH, NO,
WAIT A
SECOND,
SHISHI
WAKA-SA...



HAAA



IT
MUST BE
MY LUCKY
DAY!
I ALREADY
FOUND
THE TOMS
I WAS
LOOKING
FOR!

WELL,
NOW!



I'M
TAKING
YOU IN ON
SUSPICION
OF
TSUJIGIRI*.

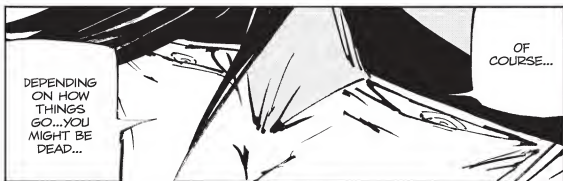
AMEMURA
SHORT.
NORWE
SHISHI-
WAKA.



*THE SAMURAI PRACTICE OF KILLING A RANDOM PASSERBY, USUALLY TO TEST A NEW WEAPON.



WELL...IF YOU
HAVE ANYTHING
TO SAY FOR
YOURSELVES,
YOU CAN SAVE
IT FOR THE
COMMISSIONER'S
OFFICE.





...BEFORE
WE EVEN
GET
THERE!!!



...NORA-
CHIYO!!!



SEE?

WE CAN
PUT IT OFF
AS LONG
AS WE
WANT, BUT
WE'RE ALL
GONNA DIE
EVENTUALLY.



WHAT'S
HAPPEN-
ING...?!

THE
POLICETOM
PULLED
HIS SWORD
BEFORE
HE EVEN
FINISHED
TALKING!



HE
REALLY
MEANT
TO OFF
SOME-
BODY!!!

AND HE
SWUNG IT
AS HARD
AS HE
COULD...



WHO
CAN
SAY?

BUT
GUESS
WHAT,
ABYHEI.

GRG-
GRG...



...WELL,
WELL,
WHAT'S
THIS?

TO THINK
I'D REEL IN
THE FISH
I WANTED
MOST FOR
DINNER.

BUT
THAT'S
ODD.

THE
MOG I KNOW
WOULD'VE BEEN
LONG GONE
BY NOW.
...ARE YOU
REALLY HIM?

I JUST
HAPPENED
TO FIND A
REASON
TO SEE
YOU,
TOO!!!

LUNGE

!!

Yee-swish





YOU'LL
LOSE MORE
THAN JUST
AN EYE
THIS TIME.

WHAM

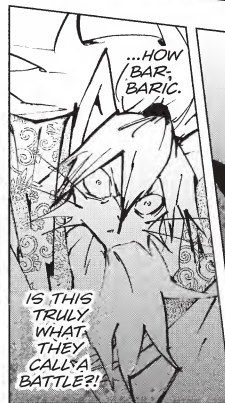


...PIECE OF
SCAT, YOU'RE
STILL FIGHTING
DIRTY. ALWAYS
AIMING FOR
MY BLIND
SPOTS.



BUT
I'M NOT
THE CAT
I USED
TO BE.

CHAK



...HOW
BAR-
BARIC.

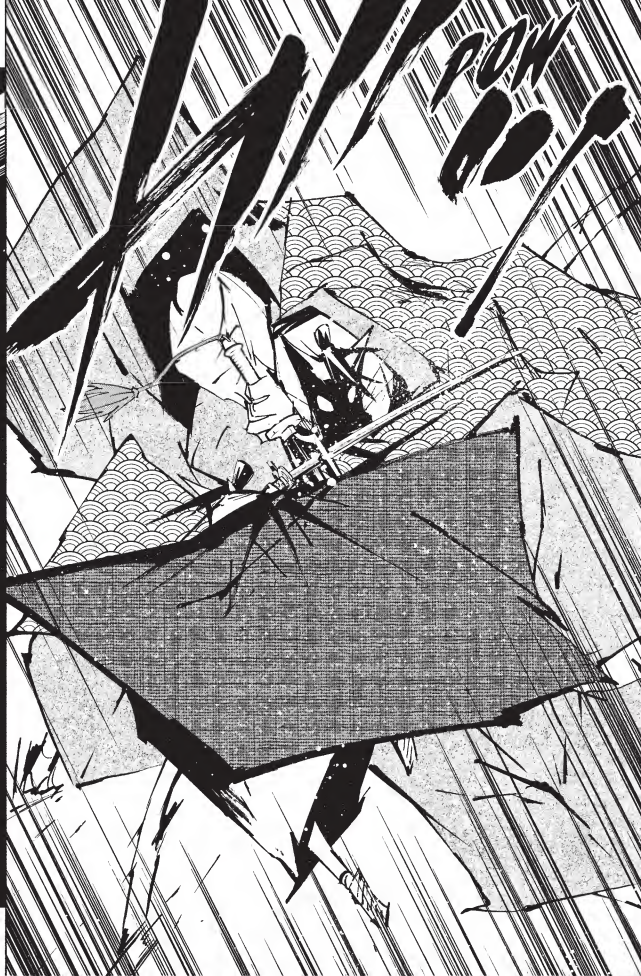
IS THIS
TRULY
WHAT
THEY
CALL A
BATTLE?!



...HE
TOOK
NORA-
CHIYO'S
EYE?!!



...





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WHAT
A COIN-
CIDENCE,
NORACHIYO.
NEITHER
AM I.



I'VE GOT
QUITE A FEW
MORE TRICKS
UP MY SLEEVE,
THANKS
TO YOUR
CONSTANT
RUNNING
AWAY.

...NO!!!
HIS
KATANA
IS
CAUGHT!

RETREAT,
NORA-
CHIYO!

TOO
LATE.

CHING

BLADE
TECH-
NIQUE:
JUMANJI.

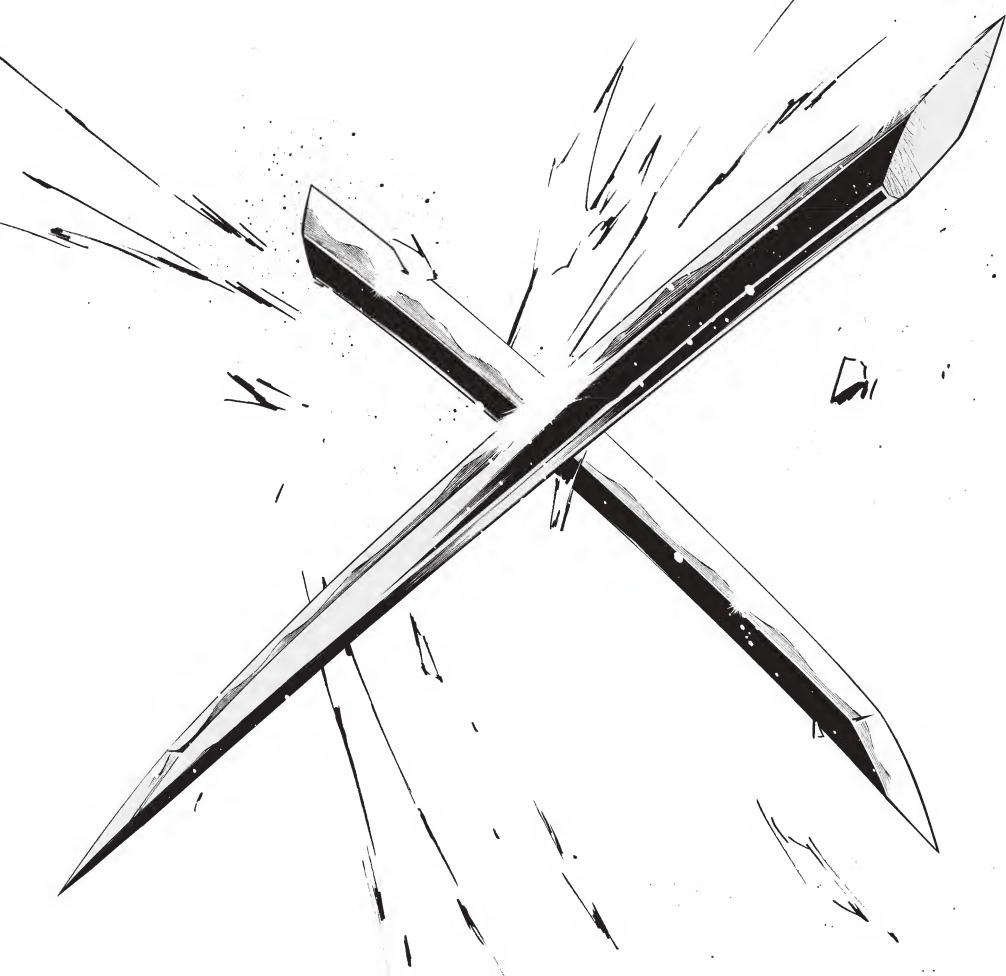
No Goro

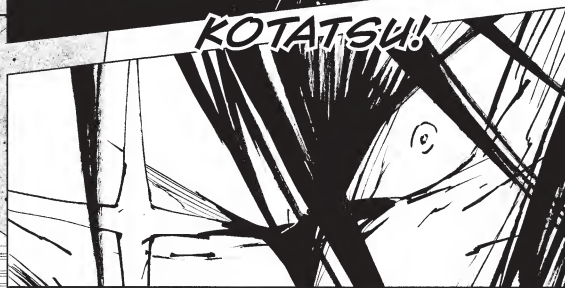
CHAPTER 18:
SHEEP'S CLOTHING,
UNSAFE-CRACKER

HIROYUKI
TAKEI











THIS
FIGHT
ISN'T
OVER,
YOU
KNOW!

WHAM







IT'S
LIKE
HE'S
PLAYING
WITH
A TOY.

THAT
DOG
GONE
ABYHEI.

B'DMP



AND
YET....!



YOU KNOW
THAT YOU
ARE NO
MATCH
FOR'A CAT
LIKE'HIM.



WHAT
ARE YOU
THINKING,
SHISHI-
WAKA?

DON'T.



FOR
SOME
REASON,
I HAVE
AN
INTENSE
URGE
TO
HELP
HIM.

...LET'S
ALL GO
TO THE
CASTLE.
RIGHT
NOW.

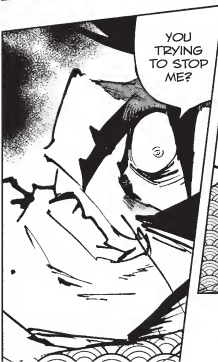
IN
THAT
CASE...





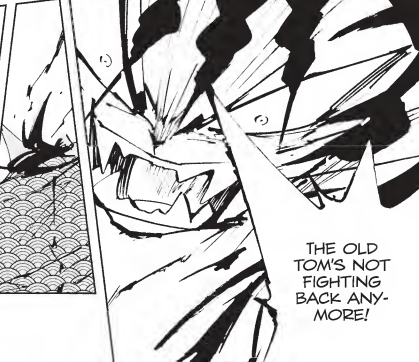
A character with a large, expressive face is shown in a dynamic, almost falling or jumping pose on a tiled roof. The character is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The roof tiles are depicted with a repeating scallop pattern. Large, bold, black ink strokes radiate from the character, suggesting a powerful action or impact. The word "WHAM" is written in a stylized, jagged font above the character's head.

GIVE IT
A REST,
YOU
STUPID
FUR-
BALL!!!



A close-up of a character's face, looking upwards with a wide-eyed, surprised expression. The character has a large, round eye and a small, open mouth. The background is dark and indistinct.

YOU
TRYING
TO STOP
ME?



A character is shown in a dynamic, almost falling or jumping pose, similar to the one in the top panel. The character is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The background is dark and indistinct. The character's face is shown in a close-up, looking upwards with a wide-eyed, surprised expression.

THE OLD
TOM'S NOT
FIGHTING
BACK ANY-
MORE!



I'M
ADDING
OBSTRUCTION
OF
JUSTICE
TO YOUR
CHARGES!

BA-CHING



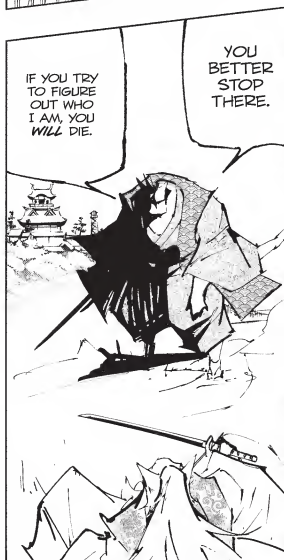
DAMN
YOU,
ABYHEI!

SHORT!

AH!



K-
BAM





THE
SAME
SCENT
AS
AMAGAMI
SHIRŌ...
FROM
THE
POUND.

HE
CARRIES
THE
SAME
SCENT.
AS
AMAGAMI
SHIRŌ.

I
AM
GOING
TO
DIE.



SHUDDER



HA.
HA.
HA.

DID I
ALREADY
SAY
THAT?

-STOMP-

STOMP STOMP

A-ARE
THOSE THE
THREE CATS
FROM THE
WANTED
POSTERS?!

?!

...TCH.

**YOU'RE
LATE,
MOGS!!!**

Boss!

254

ARREST
THEM!
NOW!!!

THESE
CATS ARE
TOO MUCH
FOR ONE
TOM TO
HANDLE!

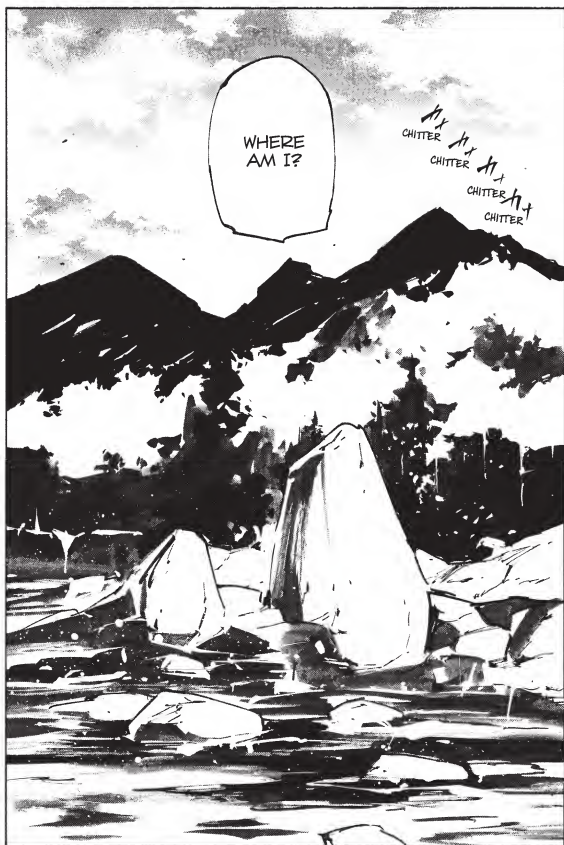


YES,
SIR!!!

...GH!







WE GRABBED
YOU AND RAN
FOR OUR
LIVES TO THE
MOUNTAINS,
BUT WE FELL
INTO THE RIVER.
IT CARRIED US
QUITE A WAYS
DOWNSTREAM.

WHERE
INDEED.



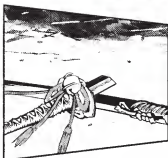
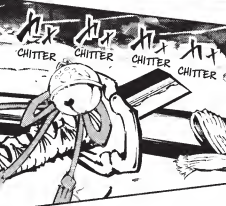
YOU'RE
NOTHING
BUT
TROUBLE,
OLD TOM.

DOG-
GONE
IT.



THE SUN
IS SETTING.
WE'LL HAVE
TO CAMP
HERE FOR
THE NIGHT.





I'M
SORRY...
YOU REALLY
HAVE GONE
OUT OF
YOUR WAY
FOR ME.



WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO
YOU?
STOP
THAT.

EW...





WHILE
WE WAIT
FOR
SUNRISE,
WILL YOU
TELL US
ABOUT
YOURSELF?

...FOR
PITY'S
SAKE.

I FEEL
I'VE SEEN
SOMETHING
I SHOULD
NEVER HAVE
WITNESSED.

WHAT
SAY YOU,
NORA-
CHIYO?



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WHILE WE
WAIT FOR
SUNRISE,
WILL YOU
TELL US
ABOUT
YOURSELF?

WHAT
SAY YOU,
NORA-
CHIYO?

BESIDES,
WHERE
WOULD I
START?

YOU'RE
KIDDING,
RIGHT?
YOU THINK
I'D GIVE
YOU THAT
INFORMA-
TION?



...BUT
WHATEVER
YOU DO,
NEVER
REPEAT
WHAT I'M
ABOUT TO
TELL YOU.



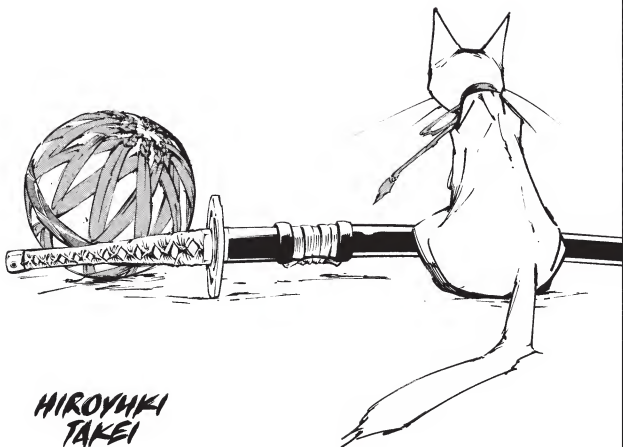
SO
YOU ARE
GONNA
TELL US?!

...NO, IT'S
ALL RIGHT.
PLEASE,
CONTINUE.

ALL
RIGHT,
MAYBE
I WON'T.

Nekogatahoro

CHAPTER 19:
HI LONE KITTY,
PART I



HIROYUKI
TAKEI



THE
KEEP

SABAYAMA
CASTLE

THE
FIFTH
YEAR
OF
REICHŌ.



HIS!

HIS!

HIS!

HIS!

HSS!

HSS!

HFF!

HFF!

HSS!

...BUT...

I
KILLED
A
PERSON
...?!

I...

...BUT I
ONLY DID
IT...I DID
ALL OF
IT...TO
PROTECT
MY
MASTER!



MASTER!

WHOOOSH

MASTER,
WHERE
HAVE YOU
GONE?!!!



MASTER!
MASTER,
WHERE
ARE
YOU?!!!



SNAP

FOY



HE'S NOT
HERE...
WHERE
IS MY
MASTER?!

I HOPE
THIS
MEANS
HE'S
ESCAPED!



RUMBLE

RUMBLE



CLATTER



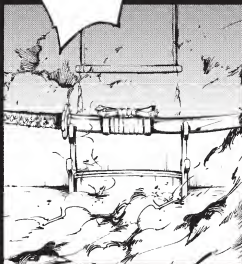




...!!!

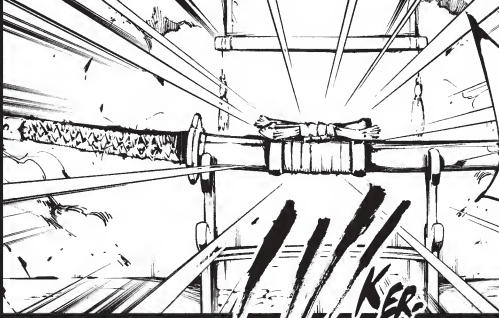


KOTA-TSU!



BLAST!
AT THIS
RATE, MY
MASTER'S
CASTLE
WILL BE
RUINED!

THE
CEILING
IS FALL-
ING IN!



...OF
COURSE!
I CAN AT
LEAST
SAVE
KOTATSU!

KER-
SNAP



FWOOOOOOOSH

ON
THAT
DAY...

...MY
MASTER
ISHIDAI
TSUNARI'S
FORCES
WERE
DEFEATED,
AND I WAS
ONCE AGAIN
A STRAY.



CATS
FEAR
PEOPLE
AS GODS,
BUT
PEOPLE
FIGHT
JUST LIKE
CATS, AND
JUST LIKE
CATS,
THEY DIE.

OUTSIDE
THE
CASTLE,
THE
GROUND
WAS
LITTERED
WITH
COUNTLESS
DEAD
HUMAN
BODIES.





I MUST HAVE
WANTED
TO ESCAPE
THE FEAR
OF HAVING
KILLED THE
RED WARRIOR.
IT WAS A
MISTAKE TO
BLAME THAT
EMOTION ON
PEOPLE.

I
DIDN'T
DO
ANY-
THING
WRONG.



THAT'S
RIGHT.
HE WAS
JUST
UNLUCKY.
THAT'S WHY
HE DIED.



LEAVE
THE
KATANA
HERE.



SO
YOU RAN
HERE
AFTER IT
BURNED
IN THE
WAR.

YOU'RE
A KEPT
CAT
FROM
THE
CASTLE,
AREN'T
YOU?



I LOVE IT
WHEN A
CODDLED
KITTY FALLS
OFF HIS
PEDESTAL.

I FEEL
FOR
YOU, BUT
THEM'S
THE
BREAKS.



OH,
REALLY?
SORRY,
OUR
BAD.



...JUST
NOT
THIS.

...YOU
CAN HAVE
EVERY-
THING
ELSE I
OWN.



...



IS THAT
WHAT YOU
EXPECTED,
FURBALL?!

!

NOT THIS.
ANYTHING
BUT THIS.

...I
CAN'T.



A...
ANIKI*.

*A FORM OF ADDRESS USED FOR AN OLDER BROTHER FIGURE,
OFTEN USED BY GANGSTER TYPES.

LIVING
THE HIGH
LIFE ONE
DAY, A
STRAY
THE NEXT.
BRINGS A
TEAR TO
YOUR EYE,
DOESN'T
IT?

THAT
KATANA
MUST
MEAN AN
AWFUL LOT
TO HIM.

GIVE
IT UP,
MOGS.





I'LL
TEACH
YOU HOW
TO FIGHT
ON THE
STREETS.

I'M
SHIRIYA
ABYHEI.

KH!
DU-DUN

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 4...

TRANSLATION NOTES

Three Grown Kittens, page 2

The translators took a bit of a liberty with the chapter title. Also, there was a poem included with the magazine publication of this chapter, which influenced the translators' choice of chapter title. The poem was:

Two grown kittens,
tattered and torn
all lazy and listless
in light fur adorned.

The Japanese chapter title is *Sanbiki ga Kiru!*, which means “Three [Animals] Wear [Clothing]!”. The “wear” part of the title is likely a reference to the fact that Norachiyo has finally put on some clothes. Written another way, it is the title of a Japanese historical drama which has been translated as “Three for the Kill!” To make the chapter title more relatable to readers who are unfamiliar with the TV show, the translators chose to use a cat connection rather than a historical drama connection, and alluded to the nursery rhyme “Three Little Kittens”. As for the poem, the original Japanese has a list of three words that sound very similar—*kizudarake*, *kedaruge*, and *kedarake*—which roughly mean “covered in injuries,” “listless,” and “covered in fur.”

Don'cha know, page 7



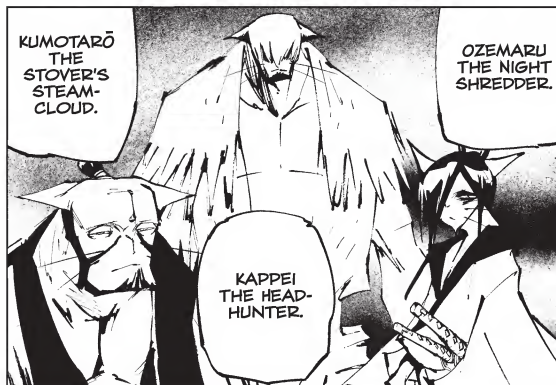
When Omiike spoke to Norachiyo in the first chapter, she mostly uses *teineigo*, or polite speech. Now that she and Norachiyo are on somewhat closer terms, she drops the formalities and lets her accent come through. She speaks in the dialect of the Yamagata region, which is quite some distance from Norachiyo's home in Ōmeow. It may be a little anachronistic, but the translators have chosen to represent the Yamagata dialect with the Minnesota dialect of the United States.

The young lion, page 27



The translators asked Kurogane to do them a favor and translate Shishiwaka's name, for the benefit of our English-speaking readers. Shishiwaka is Japanese for "lion youth," so of course Kurogane knows that any time he says the name, he is in effect calling the cat a young lion.

Stover's Steamcloud, page 56

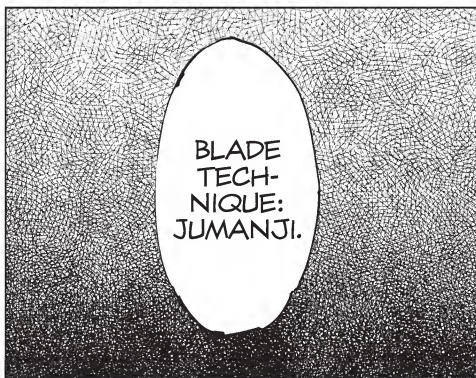


Kumotarō's epithet, *Tōge no Kamamushi* translates literally to “pot-steam of the mountain pass,” but more importantly, it is a play on words. Although the translators cannot be sure yet why Kumotarō was given this nickname, it sounds similar to a famous style of *ekiben*, or “train station lunch,” known as *Tōge no Kamameshi*, or “the pot-cooked meal of the mountain pass.” It was invented for travelers on the go, who were sick and tired of the limited options available to eat at train stations along their journey. The translators hoped to create a similar connection by invoking the American brand of frozen prepared foods, Stouffer's. The reader may rest assured that stoves called *kamado* did exist in Japan at the time this series takes place. The “cloud” part comes from Kumotarō's actual name, meaning roughly “cloud boy.”

His Nick Name, page 87

The title of this chapter is a reference to the international hit anime movie, *Your Name.*, or *Kimi no Na wa*, in Japanese. The chapter title is *Yatsu no Nawa*, which literally means “his rope,” specifically the sort of rope used to tie up arrested persons. The translators attempted to maintain both the reference to the movie and idea of capturing someone by adding “nick,” which is slang for “arrest.”

Jumanji, page 126



While the author of this manga is surely familiar with the movie *Jumanji*, the name of this technique has another meaning. Literally, in this case it translates to “ten man symbols.” The man symbol, or swastika, is an auspicious religious symbol in Buddhism, where it represents the footprints of Buddha. In Chinese and Japanese art, it has been used to represent a repeating

pattern, and very occasionally it has been used to represent ninja. The “ten” likely comes from the type of weapon *Abyhei* is using—a *jitte*, whose name means “ten hands.” This weapon was common among police officers in the Edo Era, who were not allowed to carry swords.

Unsafe Cracker, page 127

It should come as no surprise to the reader that this chapter title is based on more wordplay. The original Japanese for this portion of it is *ore ore sagi*, which usually refers to a type of phone fraud called “me me fraud,” where a crook will call an unsuspecting victim and, claiming to be a relative, say, “It’s me, it’s me. I got in trouble and need some money.” In this case, however, the phrase is given kanji characters that mean “Break! Break, heron!” As there are no avian creatures anywhere to be seen in this chapter, the translators believe the “heron” was only there for the wordplay, and chose to replace the pun with an English one that focused on the “break” aspect of the phrase.

CHITTER CHITTER, page 149



In English, one of the few ways to express the sound of a cicada is CHITTER CHITTER, but in Japanese, there are specific ways to express the calls of different species of cicada. In this case, the original Japanese used was KANA KANA KANA KANA, which is the sound of *higurashi* (EN: evening cicada). The sound of cicadas is one of many ways to give life to a scene and place it in a specific season or time. The evening cicada is often active in between September-October, so it’s most likely the fall season. A type of cicada that is more common in Japan is active in summer, and its call (MIIN MIIN MIIN in Japanese) is normally used to depict summer scenes in manga and anime.

Reichō, page 158

Because these events take place before Japan adopted the Western calendar, time was not marked with the same years. Prior to the Meiji Era, a new era began whenever the emperor decided something significant enough to mark the beginning of an era had occurred. Norachiyo's story begins in the fifth year of the Reichō Era, which is a feline era that corresponds with the human Keichō Era that began in 1596 (making the fifth year 1600). Incidentally, *reichō* can mean "superior" or "primate," likely referring to the humans who reign supreme.





The Black Museum ^{The} Ghost and the Lady

By Kazuhiro Fujita

Deep in Scotland Yard in London sits an evidence room dedicated to the greatest mysteries of British history. In this “Black Museum” sits a misshapen hunk of lead—two bullets fused together—the key to a wartime encounter between Florence Nightingale, the mother of modern nursing, and a supernatural Man in Grey. This story is unknown to most scholars of history, but a special guest of the museum will tell the tale of The Ghost and the Lady...

Praise for Kazuhiro Fujita's *Ushio and Tora*

“A charming revival that combines a classic look with modern depth and pacing... **Essential viewing both for curmudgeons and new fans alike.**” — Anime News Network

“**GREAT!** The first episode of *Ushio and Tora* captures the essence of '90s anime.” — IGN

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Nekogahara 3

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